

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5 and 12 are amended to include the allowable features of claims 11 and 19 and the intervening claims and claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-23 are cancelled.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

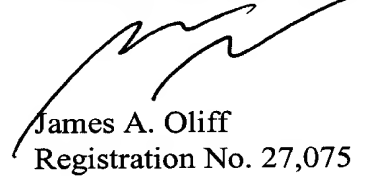
Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11 and 19.

The rejection of claims 1-10, 12-18 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,717,879 to Moran et al. ("Moran") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,523 to Oberteuffer et al. ("Oberteuffer"), has been rendered moot because the remaining claims have been amended to include admitted allowable features.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: September 14, 2006

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